

Aldermeshian 1999-0795

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled) .

3. (Canceled) .

4. (Canceled) .

5. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting data across a network comprising the steps of
receiving a plurality of Internet protocol packets each of which contains data and priority information at a first router;
encapsulating the data contained in the Internet protocol packets into frame relay frames containing the priority information;
transmitting the frame relay frames from the first router to a frame relay network in a manner determined by the priority information included in the frame relay frames;
and
transmitting the frame relay frames across a frame relay network to a second router in manner determined by the priority information included in the frame relay frames

The method of claim 2, wherein the step of transmitting the frame relay frames from the first router comprises transmitting the frame relay frames over a group of more than one permanent virtual circuit, and the group of permanent virtual circuits includes at least one circuit designated to carry frames containing critical information and at least one circuit designated to carry frames containing non-critical information.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting data across a network comprising the steps of
receiving a plurality of Internet protocol packets each of which contains data and priority information at a first router;

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encapsulating the data contained in the Internet protocol packets into frame relay frames containing the priority information;

transmitting the frame relay frames from the first router to a frame relay network in a manner determined by the priority information included in the frame relay frames;

transmitting the frame relay frames across a frame relay network to a second router in manner determined by the priority information included in the frame relay frames

converting the frame relay frames arriving at the second router into Internet protocol packets having the priority information; and

transmitting the Internet protocol packets from the second router toward a destination location in a manner determined by the priority information included in the Internet protocol packets.

7. (Canceled) .

8. (Canceled) .

9. (Canceled) .

10. (Canceled) .

11. (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting data across a network comprising the steps of

receiving a plurality of Internet protocol packets each of which contains data and priority information at a first router;

encapsulating the data contained in the Internet protocol packets into frame relay frames containing the priority information;

transmitting the frame relay frames from the first router to a frame relay network in a manner determined by the priority information included in the frame relay frames; and

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transmitting the frame relay frames across a frame relay network to a second router in manner determined by the priority information included in the frame relay frames

wherein the priority information of each Internet protocol packet arriving at the first router is a function of an address of each Internet protocol packet

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)